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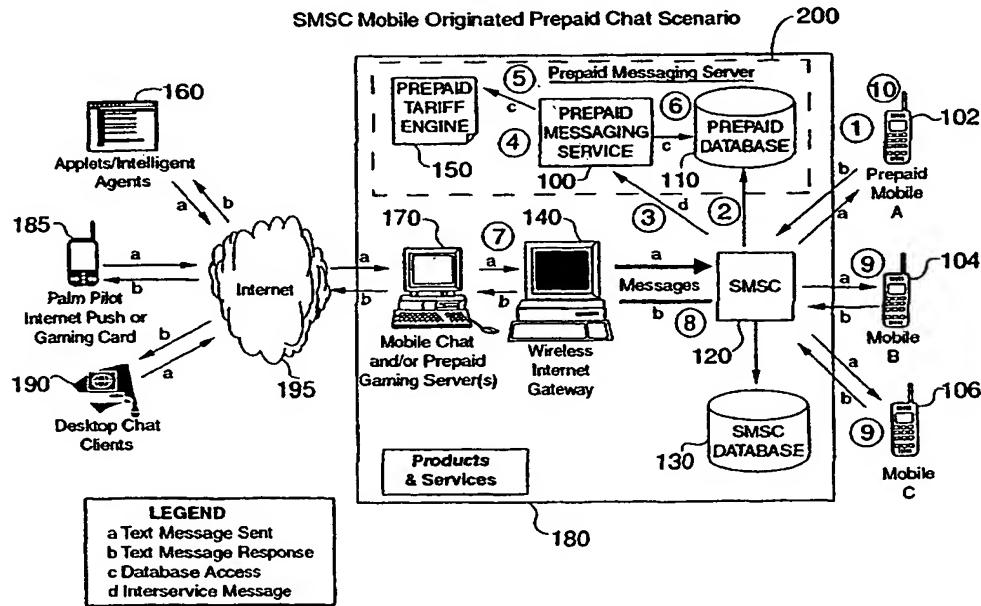
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PREPAID SHORT MESSAGING



A3

WO 01/63883 A3

(57) Abstract: A prepaid messaging solution that uses open networking standards and which supports pre-payment of enhanced Internet messaging services. The prepaid architectures and method accurately determine if a subscriber has sufficient account balance to deliver a complete short message, prior to delivery of the message. The short message may be prevented from being delivered if insufficient funds are in the subscriber's account. A prepaid tariff engine (150) is extensible over a TCP/IP network (195), and supports remote interaction with the SMSC (120) and web chat servers (170) for the purpose of applying a real-time billing charge for each message.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/05677

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60; H04M 11/00
US CL : 705/39-45; 455/406, 408, 414, 445

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 705/39-45; 455/406, 408, 414, 445

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST, DIALOG, DERWENT

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y.P	US 6,075,982 A (DONOVAN et al.) 13 June 2000 (13.06.2000), see entire document.	1-30
Y.E	US 6,195,543 B1 (GRANBERG) 27 February 2001 (27.02.2001), see entire document.	1-30
Y	US 5,974,133 A (FLEISCHER, III et al.) 26 October 1999 (26.10.1999), see entire document.	1-30

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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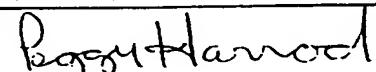
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